

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 /062 W
-----036598 071043Z /21

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0114

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, US, SALT, PARM

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VLADIVOSTOK SPEECH APRIL 7

1. BREZHNEV GAVE A VERY TOUGHLY WORDED SPEECH IN VLADIVOSTOK APRIL 7, ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ADDRESSED TO THE U.S., ON DETENTE, SALT AND THE NEUTRON BOMB. LIKE THE BREZHNEV SPEECH TO THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS ONE YEAR AGO, THIS STATEMENT ON DETENTE AND SALT SERVES AS THE SOVIET SCENE-SETTER FOR THE SCHEDULED VISIT TO MOSCOW OF SECRETARY VANCE LATER THIS MONTH. LIKE THE SPEECH OF A YEAR AGO, THIS ONE IS ALSO STRONG AND UNYIELDING ON ALL ISSUES.

2. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS OF SPEECH:

-- BREZHNEV REFERRED TO FORCES ON THE EAST AND WEST OF SOVIET BORDERS WHICH ARE INTERESTED IN THE ARMS RACE AND IN INCREASING TENSION. (THIS WAS THE ONLY REFERENCE TO CHINA IN THE ENTIRE SPEECH.)

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-- BREZHNEV SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF THE 1974 VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS AND SAID THAT "BOTH SIDES" TALKED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT IN 1975 SHORTLY AFTER VLADIVOSTOK, SINCE MOST OF THE WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED AT THAT MEETING. HOWEVER, THREE AND A HALF YEARS LATER THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT.

-- IF THERE ARE DELAYS, BREZHNEV SAID, THEY ARE DUE TO A LACK OF POLITICAL DECISION. THE CRUX OF THE MATTER, HE SAID, WAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S "INDECISION, INCONSISTENCY" AND LACK OF PREPAREDNESS TO FIND "PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS." THIS, HE SAID, IS PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE SALT.

-- HE ALSO SPOKE AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO LINK SALT WITH OTHER PROBLEMS AND ISSUES, TO BRING PRESSURE AGAINST THE USSR.

-- SOME IN THE U.S., ACCORDING TO BREZHNEV, ARE TRYING TO USE THE SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT AS A WAY TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE U.S. HE CITED THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE MODERNIZATION ISSUES AS EXAMPLES.

-- WITHOUT U.S. STEPS IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET FLEXIBILITY, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE THE REMAINING QUESTIONS, BUT FRANKLY WE RECENTLY HAVE NOT SEEN SUCH STEPS.

-- THE SOVIET UNION, HE SAID, "RESOLUTELY REJECTS" THESE ATTEMPTS AND FAVORS THE MOST RAPID CONCLUSION OF AND AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY. "THERE CAN BE NO OTHER SOLUTION."
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-- ON THE NEUTRON BOMB BREZHNEV CHARACTERIZED IT AS A "NUCLEAR, OFFENSIVE WEAPON" WHICH WILL INCREASE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR. TO SAY OTHERWISE, HE SAID, "DOES NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE FACTS."

-- HE ACCUSED THE U.S. AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES OF TRYING TO DECEIVE "THE PEOPLE" INTO THINKING THEY ARE READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE USSR ON THE BOMB, BUT IN FACT ARE THINKING OF USING IT AS A BARGAINING CHIP FOR OTHER "UNRELATED ISSUES."

-- REGARDING THE PROTESTS IN THE WEST AGAINST THE WEAPON, BREZHNEV SAID THAT THE LEADERS SHOULD HEED THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

-- BREZHNEV CLOSED WITH A REJECTION OF THE IDEA THAT THERE IS A "SOVIET THREAT" USING STANDARD ARGUMENTS. TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, SPEECHES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW06991
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-0553
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780481/aaaacquc.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 339ad4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3042195
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV VLADIVOSTOK SPEECH APRIL 7
TAGS: SOPN, PARM, PEPR, UR, US, (BREZHNEV, LEONID IL'ICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/339ad4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014